

Populations & Ecosystems Chapter 1 Notes

heading -->

abiotic

a nonliving factor in an ecosystem

in other words....

anything that's not alive, but is part of an ecosystem

examples

air
temperature
soil
man-made objects

wind
sunlight

biotic

a living factor in an ecosystem

in other words....

something that's alive, was once alive, or comes from a living thing in an ecosystem

examples

a dead skunk
a white oak tree
a leaf
a human
a rhinoceros

organism

a living thing

in other words....

something that is alive

examples

a skunk
a sunflower
a bacterium
a three toed tree sloth
moss

ecosystem

an area in which living and nonliving things interact

in other words....

a place where there are living things and nonliving things affecting each other

examples

a forest in Pennsylvania
the inside of my mouth
a classroom
North America

Populations & Ecosystems Chapter 1 Notes

community

all the organisms of all kinds that live together in an ecosystem

in other words....

examples

population

all the organisms of the same type in a community

in other words....

examples

photosynthesis

the process by which plants convert light energy from the sun into energy they can use.

in other words....

examples

the way plants make food from sunlight

any plant, plant-like plankton, and some algae performs photosynthesis

chlorophyll

the substance in plants that makes leaves and stems green and stores energy.

in other words....

examples

energy storage areas in plants that also make parts of the plants green

Any green area in a plant has chlorophyll, such as the stems or leaves.

Populations & Ecosystems Chapter 1 Notes

producer

an organism that makes energy from sunlight

in other words....

examples

consumer

an organism that eats other organisms for energy

in other words....

examples

decomposer

an organism that gets energy by breaking down dead or decaying organic matter

in other words....

examples

predator

an organism that eats other organisms

in other words....

examples

Populations & Ecosystems Chapter 1 Notes

prey

an organism that is hunted and eaten

in other words....

examples

omnivore

a consumer that eats both plants and meat

in other words....

examples

herbivore

a consumer that eats only plants

in other words....

examples

carnivore

a consumer that eats only meat

in other words....

examples

Populations & Ecosystems Chapter 1 Notes

symbiosis

in other words....

a special relationship between two types of animal

a long-term close relationship between two species

examples

parasitism

in other words....

a relationship between two species in which one species is helped and the other is hurt.

symbiosis in which one organism lives on, or feeds upon, and harms another organism.

examples

dog (host) and fleas (parasite)
deer (host) and tick (parasite)

commensalism

in other words....

a relationship between two species in which one species is helped and the other one doesn't care

symbiosis in which one species benefits, but the other is unaffected

examples

crab spider (benefits) and flower (doesn't care)

mutualism

in other words....

a relationship between two species in which both species are helped

symbiosis in which all species involved benefit

examples

bees (get food) and flowers (spread pollen)

Populations & Ecosystems Chapter 1 Notes

adaptation

in other words....

something special about an animal that keeps it and its species alive

a special structure or behavior that helps a species survive and reproduce

examples

knife-like beak on a peregrine falcon
scales on reptiles
hooves on a mountain goat

niche

in other words....

something a species does to help its ecosystem

the role a species plays in its community

examples

- *squirrel spreads acorns around, helping trees grow
- *red-tailed hawks control the snake population
- *tree provides home for an owl

food chain

in other words....

a way of showing how energy travels through different organisms

the path of energy transfer from one organism to another

examples

sunlight --> grass --> rabbit --> hawk

food web

in other words....

a bunch of food chains shown at once to show all the things that give each organism energy and what preys on each one

overlapping food chains showing all the ways the organisms get energy

examples

